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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indonesia
SUBJECT Cooperation Between Political Parties/
Communist Party Influence

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1. The old saying that politics makes strange bedfellows is nowhere more apparent than in consideration of the current political situation in Indonesia where two of the three major parties, i.e., the Republicans and the Communists join forces from time to time to counteract the influence of the third, the Masjumi, which is the Islamic religious party. The Masjumi is a very large and very powerful organization, and both of the other major parties fear it very much.
2. The Masjumi want and demand everything, and since Sukarno and Watta have not been able to fulfill the promises made in the early days of the establishment of the Republic, the Masjumi have attracted quite a following. They, like the Communists, promise something for nothing and have the added advantage of being saturated with all of the Indonesian tradition which the natives have adored to for so many years.
3. Despite the fact that SOESI, a Communist-led federation, was able to appoint a pro-Communist Minister of Labor last summer / 1953 /, the Labor Ministry is not a ranking one, and does not make itself felt in national affairs to much of an extent. While it is true that this appointment will handicap the development of industry there have been no new policies or regulations from the Labor Ministry which have been singularly favorable to SOESI. This is despite the fact that the influence of non-Communist labor unions has been negligible.

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